



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

All Department/District Heads

At its meeting held September 6, 2005, the Board took the following action:

65-A, 65-B and 65-C

The following items were called up:

65-A

Supervisor Burke's recommendation to Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to convene a Task Force, comprised of County and County-related agencies, including, but not limited to, the Housing Authority of Los Angeles County, Offices of Emergency Management, Education and Public Health, Departments of Public Social Services, Community and Senior Services, Mental Health, and Children and Family Services, and invite representatives from the California State Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to develop guidelines and a process relative to providing expedited public services for qualified, displaced families affected by Hurricane Katrina to relocate temporarily or permanently to Los Angeles County, including policies that include anti-fraud measures to ensure that only legitimate victims can apply for Federal, State, or local services; and invite representatives from the airline, rail, bus, and hotel industries to participate in the Task Force and include a plan to utilize the County's website and the 211 information line to help disseminate information; and report back to the Board within 14 days with the Task Force's plan of action;

65-B

Supervisor Burke's recommendation to designate all County branch and regional libraries as collection sites for cash or check donations, payable to the American Red Cross, for the Katrina Hurricane victims; and direct the County Librarian, Chief Administrative Officer's Office of Emergency Management, and the Auditor-Controller, to work together to ensure that donated funds are collected and distributed in a safe and accountable manner, and include input from representatives of the American Red Cross, to implement the collection program as soon as possible; and

(Continued on Page 2)

65-C

Supervisor Burke's recommendation to instruct the Director of Public Health and Health Officer to provide a report to the Board at the meeting of September 13, 2005, concerning the public health implications of Hurricane Katrina and provide recommendations on any ways in which Los Angeles County could assist with the public health aspects of the recovery and rebuilding.

Constance Perrett, Director, Office of Emergency Management, Chief Administrative Officer, briefed the Board on the Task Force that convened to discuss the County's plan to respond and assist those affected by Hurricane Katrina. Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, Director of Public Health, Department of Health Services, responded to questions posed by the Board.

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Burke (65-A):

"With each passing day, the loss of life and property and human suffering from Hurricane Katrina becomes more apparent. Lives have been destroyed and homes demolished, and it will be many months before people can even begin to rebuild their lives. The devastation from this disaster will be felt for many years to come.

"Many people living in Los Angeles County have relatives who have been affected by this disaster, and are willing to sponsor and help relocate the victims to Los Angeles, either temporarily or permanently, so they are able to provide emotional and social support and to help them get back on their feet. We as a County should ensure that we are prepared to accept these disaster victims and make every service for which they are eligible available to them as quickly as possible."

Therefore, Supervisor Burke made a motion that the Board instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to convene a Task Force, comprised of County and County-related agencies, including, but not limited to, the Housing Authority of Los Angeles County, Offices of Emergency Management, Education and Public Health, Departments of Public Social Services, Community and Senior Services, Mental Health, and Children and Family Services; and invite representatives from the California State Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to:

1. Develop guidelines and a process relative to providing expedited public services for qualified, displaced families affected by Hurricane Katrina to relocate temporarily or permanently to Los Angeles County, including policies that include anti-fraud measures to ensure that only legitimate victims can apply for Federal, State, or local services;

(Continued on Page 3)

2. Invite representatives from the airline, rail, bus, and hotel industries to participate in the Task Force and include a plan to utilize the County's website and the 211 information line to help disseminate information; and
3. Report back to the Board within 14 days with the Task Force's plan of action.

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Molina:

"Hurricane Katrina is one of the most destructive disasters that has ever occurred. Our thoughts are with the victims of this horrific event, and their families. Everyday presents additional challenges to the people in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama and we must support them.

"The County of Los Angeles is no stranger to disasters and is empathetic about the hardships being felt by those left in Katrina's wake. Due to our experience with emergencies, the County of Los Angeles possesses many powerful resources, both human and material, that may assist those affected by this devastating disaster.

"The County of Los Angeles has not received an official request for this type of aid. However, our County is familiar with natural disasters, and we must be proactive and ready to assist those who so desperately need our help, if requested through official State or Federal channels."

Therefore, Supervisor Molina made a suggestion that Supervisor Burke's motion be amended to also:

1. Instruct all Department/District Heads to survey their departments for skilled personnel and/or equipment that can provide specialized assistance, other than fire and law enforcement, that can be deployed to the Gulf region in areas such as, but not limited to, Emergency Management, Information Technology, Mental Health, Social Services, Health Services, Public Works, Engineers, Sanitation District Resources, Logistics, Public Relations, and Coroner; and return this information to the Office of Emergency Management via e-mail or fax by Friday, September 9, 2005; and

(Continued on Page 4)

2. Instruct the Office of Emergency Management to promptly forward this information to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services to be added to the resource information they are gathering.

Further, Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a suggestion that Supervisor Burke's motion be amended to instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to also contact the Veterans Administration and other Federal facilities to request they consider housing the evacuees from areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Supervisor Burke accepted Supervisors Molina and Yaroslavsky's amendments.

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Burke (65-B):

"I am very proud at the number of County employees, members of the public, for profit business and nonprofit organizations, and the media, who have stepped up to donate time, money, and supplies to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina. However, it has been brought to my attention that some residents of my District, those without checking accounts or credit cards and who would like to donate cash, must travel far from their homes in order to deliver the donation to an accepting agency or collection site. We should make it as convenient as possible for those who want to do the right thing by giving to others, especially when their own needs might be many."

Therefore, Supervisor Burke made a motion that the Board take the following actions:

1. Designate all County branch and regional libraries as collection sites for cash or check donations, payable to the American Red Cross, to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina; and
2. Instruct the County Librarian, Chief Administrative Officer's Office of Emergency Management, and the Auditor-Controller, to work together to ensure that donated funds are collected and distributed in a safe and accountable manner, and include input from representatives of the American Red Cross, to implement the collection program as soon as possible.

(Continued on Page 5)

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Burke (65-C):

“Hurricane Katrina’s winds brought substantial damage to Louisiana and Mississippi, but the flooding in New Orleans is a horrific problem. The rescue efforts themselves are a National disgrace, but the long-term effects are not just to be found in displaced persons. The floodwaters are creating a public health problem, both catastrophic and long lasting. The mix of human bodies, sewage, decaying animals and vermin, and toxic chemicals will create contamination, leading to severe obstacles to rebuilding and repopulating the City, once the water is pumped out. The public health implications of this for the population of New Orleans are immense.

“Our Public Health staff has expertise that could help with the efforts, both now and as the City is rebuilt.”

Therefore, Supervisor Burke made a motion that the Director of Public Health and Health Officer be instructed to provide a report to the Board at the meeting of September 13, 2005 concerning the public health implications of Hurricane Katrina and to provide recommendations on any ways in which Los Angeles County could assist with the public health aspects of the recovery and rebuilding.

Further, Supervisor Burke made the following statement:

“I have been informed that the County of Los Angeles has placed approximately 70 children in the hard-hit Gulf States region of the United States, 30 of whom we are still unable to locate. With each passing day, we hear of more and more instances where aid was delayed or services have yet to be delivered.

“It is imperative that a full, independent investigation be conducted to locate our children.”

(Continued on Page 6)

65-A, 65-B, 65-C (Continued)

Dr. David Sanders, Director of Children and Family Services, reported to the Board on 69 youth currently placed in the Gulf States and on those who have been located and contacted.

Supervisor Burke made a motion the Board take the following additional actions, in relation to the subject of Agenda items 65-A, 65-B and 65-C, which were posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a):

1. Instruct the Executive Officer of the Board to send a five-signature letter to Federal, State(s), and local agencies requesting assistance on locating these foster children; and
2. Instruct the Director of Children and Family Services to report immediately on the status of the Department's efforts to locate these children.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to convene a Task Force, comprised of County and County-related agencies, including, but not limited to, the Housing Authority of Los Angeles County, Offices of Emergency Management, Education and Public Health, Departments of Public Social Services, Community and Senior Services, Mental Health, and Children and Family Services; and invite representatives from the California State Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to:
 - Develop guidelines and a process relative to providing expedited public services for qualified, displaced families affected by Hurricane Katrina to relocate temporarily or permanently to Los Angeles County, including policies that include anti-fraud measures to ensure that only legitimate victims can apply for Federal, State, or local services;
 - Invite representatives from the airline, rail, bus, and hotel industries to participate in the Task Force and include a plan to utilize the County's website and the 211 information line to help disseminate information; and

(Continued on Page 7)

- Report back to the Board within 14 days with the Task Force's plan of action;
2. Instructed all Department/District Heads to survey their departments for skilled personnel and/or equipment that can provide specialized assistance, other than fire and law enforcement, that can be deployed to the Gulf region in areas such as, but not limited to, Emergency Management, Information Technology, Mental Health, Social Services, Health Services, Public Works, Engineers, Sanitation District Resources, Logistics, Public Relations, and Coroner; and return this information to the Office of Emergency Management via e-mail or fax by Friday, September 9, 2005;
 3. Instructed the Office of Emergency Management to promptly forward the survey information to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services to be added to the resource information they are gathering;
 4. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to contact the Veterans Administration and other Federal facilities to request they consider housing the evacuees from areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina;
 5. Designated all County branch and regional libraries as collection sites for cash or check donations, payable to the American Red Cross, to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina;
 6. Instructed the County Librarian, Chief Administrative Officer's Office of Emergency Management, and the Auditor-Controller, to work together to ensure that donated funds are collected and distributed in a safe and accountable manner, and include input from representatives of the American Red Cross, to implement the collection program as soon as possible;
 7. Instructed the Director of Public Health and Health Officer to provide a report to the Board at the meeting of September 13, 2005 concerning the public health implications of Hurricane Katrina and to provide recommendations on any ways in which Los Angeles County could assist with the public health aspects of the recovery and rebuilding;

(Continued on Page 8)

65-A, 65-B, 65-C (Continued)

8. Instructed the Executive Officer of the Board to send a five-signature letter to Federal, State(s), and local agencies requesting assistance on locating the approximately 70 foster children placed in the hard-hit Gulf States region; and
9. Instructed the Director of Children and Family Services to report immediately on the status of the Department's efforts to locate the foster children that were placed in the hard-hit Gulf States region.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Administrator, Office of Emergency
Management Services
Director of Public Health and Health Officer